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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,178	03/05/2002	Teng Pin Poo	1601457-0013	7556

7590 05/25/2006
White & Case LLP
Attn: Patent Department
1155 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

EXAMINER PARK, ILWOO	
ART UNIT 2182	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,178

Applicant(s)

POO ET AL.

Examiner

Ilwoo Park

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 12-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/21/06, 12/28/05, 10/3/05, 9/19/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened on claims 1-9 and 12-14 in consequence of the Pre-Appeal Brief Conference.
2. Claims 1-9 and 12-14 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 9, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotanda [JP 2002-232769A] in view of Tosaka [JP Hei 11-53060].

As to claim 1, Gotanda teaches a portable camera device [digital camera 2 in fig. 1] capable of operation with a host platform [personal computer 72], the portable camera device comprising:

a housing;

a USB connector [e.g., USB connector 31 in fig. 2] integrally adapted to the housing of the portable camera device to facilitate coupling of the portable camera device via the USB connector to a USB socket of the host platform;

a non-volatile memory [memory card 15 in figs. 1 and 4] in communication with said USB connector;

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a digital camera, integrally formed with said non-volatile memory, for capturing image and/or audio information, said non-volatile memory capable of storing [paragraph 0018] said image and/or audio information; and

a microprocessor [CPU 48 in fig. 4] for at least in part formatting said image and/or audio information in a standard image and/or audio file format [e.g., JPEG in paragraph 0027] compatible with the host platform.

As to claim 12, Gotanda teaches a method of capturing image and/or audio information and uploading the image and/or audio information to a host platform, comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing image and/or audio information using a portable camera device [digital camera 2 in fig. 1] having a housing and a USB connector [e.g., USB connector 31 in fig. 2] adapted to the housing to facilitate coupling of the portable camera device via the USB connector [e.g., USB connector 31 in fig. 2] to a USB socket of the host platform;

(b) digitizing [paragraph 0025] said image and/or audio data captured in said step (a);

(c) processing [paragraph 0027] said image and/or audio data digitized in said step (b) into a form [e.g., JPEG] compatible with the host platform; and

(d) uploading [paragraph 0027] said image and/or audio data from the portable camera device to the host platform via a coupling of the USB connector to a USB socket of the host platform.

However, Gotanda does not teach the USB connector being a USB plug to facilitate direct coupling to the host platform; rather, Gotanda teaches indirect coupling to

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the host platform using a cable [paragraph 0029]. Tosaka teaches a portable camera device [camera 2 in fig. 1] having a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the portable camera device to facilitate not only direct coupling [fig. 1] but also indirect coupling [fig. 4] of the portable camera device via the USB connector to a USB socket of the host platform [personal computer]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gotanda and Tosaka because they both teach a portable camera device coupling to a USB socket of a host platform and the Tosaka's further teaching of a portable camera device having a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the portable camera device to facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to a USB socket of the host platform without using a USB cable would increase flexibility in connectivity [abstract of Tosaka] to the host platform.

5. As to claim 2, Gotanda teaches a non-volatile memory comprising a flash memory [memory card 15].
6. As to claim 3, Tosaka teaches said USB plug capable of coupling a USB port of the host platform [fig. 1].
7. As to claim 4, Gotanda teaches said standard image and/or audio file format comprising a JPEG file format [JPEG in paragraph 0027].
8. As to claim 9, Gotanda teaches a power source for providing power to components of the portable camera device [fig. 1].
9. As to claim 13, Gotanda teaches storing said image and/or audio data in a volatile memory [video memory 59, buffer memory 60 in fig. 4].

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10. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotanda and Tosaka as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shimizu [US 6,753,921 B1].

As to claim 8, Gotanda and Tosaka do not explicitly disclose a power supply circuit for receiving power from the host platform and providing said power to components of the portable camera device. Shimizu teaches [col. 1, line 62-col. 2, line 9] a portable digital camera for coupling and communicating to a host platform has a power supply circuit for receiving power from the host platform and providing said power to components of the portable camera device. therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a power supply circuit for receiving power from the host platform and providing said power to components of the portable camera in order to increase simplicity by not requiring a DC adapter connection [col. 1, line 31-38 of Shimizu; fig. 4 of Gotanda].

11. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotanda and Tosaka as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of well-known in the art.

As to claims 5-7, though Gotanda and Tosaka show one standard image and/or audio file format as an example, Gotanda and Tosaka do not expressly show the example includes a GIF, a PICT II, or an MPEG file format. However, one standard image and/or audio file format including a GIF, a PICT II, or an MPEG file format is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a GIF, a PICT II, or an MPEG file format in the one standard image and/or audio file format in order to increase flexibility in adapting a plurality of different file format.

12. Claims 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matraszek et al [US 2003/0122839 A1] in view of Tosaka [JP Hei 11-53060].

As to claim 14, Matraszek et al teach a method of authenticating an operator seeking access to information [e.g., images, metadata (personal affective information)] on a storage medium [e.g., hard drive 20, database 44], comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing [paragraph 0054] image and/or audio identification data [e.g., metadata in paragraph 0047] via a digital camera [video camera 4], said digital camera having a housing and a USB connector integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate coupling of the digital camera via the USB connector to a USB socket of a host platform [home computer 10 in fig. 1];

(b) comparing [at login in paragraphs 0067, 0095, 0114] at least portions of said image and/or audio identification data against a template [user identifier or personal identification code created and stored previously] stored in a memory; and

(c) allowing access to the information if the image and/or audio identification data matches the stored template upon comparison in said step (b).

However, Matraszek et al do not teach the USB connector being a USB plug to facilitate direct coupling to the host platform; rather, Matraszek et al teach indirect coupling to the host platform using a cable [paragraph 0054]. Tosaka teaches a digital camera [camera 2 in fig. 1] having a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate not only direct coupling [fig. 1] but also indirect coupling [fig. 4] of the digital camera via the USB connector to a USB socket of the host platform [personal computer]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Matraszek et al and Tosaka

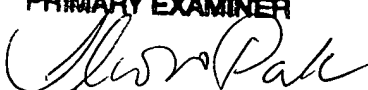
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because they both teach a digital camera coupling to a USB socket of a host platform and the Tosaka's further teaching of a digital camera having a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the digital camera to facilitate direct coupling of the digital camera via the USB plug to a USB socket of the host platform without using a USB cable would increase flexibility in connectivity [abstract of Tosaka] to the host platform.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ilwoo Park whose telephone number is (571) 272-4155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ILWOO PARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Ilwoo Park

May 19, 2006